(b) what is the total installed capacity to produce polyester, nylon and acrylic yarn and how much cloth will be produced out of this capacity and what is the effective production; and

(c) whether it is a fact that synthetic fabrics last five times in comparison to cotton fabrics and if so, whether Government propose to encourage production of synthetic fabrics on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on extraction of wood

773. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to stop forest operations including extraction of wood;

(b) if so, what impact it will have on the State exchequer and on the people who depend on forests for fuel; and

(c) what alternative steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Central Board of Forestry in its XXII Meeting held in December, 1987 unanimously adopted the following resolution:—

1. For the conservation of forests, the extraction of wood from forests be stopped;

2. The reduction in state revenues as a result will be compensated the quantum of compensation to be determined by the Finance Commission;

3. The requirement of wood for the country will be satisfied by import and farm forestry.

Growth rate of LIC

774. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has registered a substantial growth rate; and

(b) if so, what are the zone-wise details with break-up as on February 29, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. LIC has registered a substantial growth rate in its new business (sum assured) and premium income. The zonewise detailed break-up as on 29-2-1988 is given below:—

Zone	New Individual Assurance	New Group Insurance	Premium income
	%	%	%
Northern	43	22	33
Central	38	41	27
Eastern	40	22	24
Southern	33	59	23
Western	38	28	41
ALL INDIA	37	34	30